Post Current Art Exhibit Dazzles UB Audience

The lobby and many classrooms of Baldy Hall were transformed into a gallery of electronic art two weeks ago. "Post-current" art, including videotaped screenings, graphic paintings, and sound sculpture of professional artists were displayed at UB for the first time.

Post-current art is beyond postmodern art, according to Neil Zusman, curator of the program. "It is not anti-art," he said. "It is central art. It is the sister of postmodernism."

Members of media departments from schools around the country, including New York University and Alfred University, attended the exhibition.

Eerie wind-like noises filled the lobby from a sound sculpture. This 'installation' uses microphones to measure and amplify the different resonances in a room.

Scientific for artistic

"I shape the sound," said John Driscoll, creator of the sculpture. "It (the sculpture) uses the scientific for the artistic."

There were six different 'installations' displayed in various classrooms. Graphic paintings by two artists hung on the lobby walls. 15 video artists were featured.

One room had two transparencies rotating from the ceiling of the faces of a male Cuban scientist and a female Soviet cosmonaut. Their images were transposed on the walls in what creator Ed Tomney titled "Whispering Elms." Male and female voices were simultaneously played to convey the meaning that this man and woman were representative of all men and women. Tomney said he recorded "real life every day voices and sounds" to make the accompanying audio collage.

Tantalizing the senses

"You want to get someone's attention," Tomney said. "The artist tantalizes your senses and anything can happen. The eyes and ears are inseparable. It is seduction by image."

Tomney recently toured Europe and has done installations for radio and museums.

"This exhibition is to celebrate invention," Zusman said. "There is a spirit in America of going to the junkyard, finding old things and remodel them. We celebrate this 'junkyard genius' with this show."

Zusman decided to hold the exhibition in Baldy Hall because he wanted to get away from the structure of museums and conventional art galleries.

By positioning the exhibition below the computer lab, Zusman believes this was an "art gallery in the computer shadow."

Zusman hopes that this type of art will be exhibited in the planned Fine Arts Center.

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Program Curator